

ICSM NEWS - 2004

2004 has been a year of considerable achievement and change for ICSM

In May the Geodetic Datum (GDA) sub-committee was disbanded, having completed its terms of reference in regard to the facilitating Australia's move to the new global geocentric datum. The long term monitoring of the up-take of GDA has been transferred to ICSM's Geodesy sub-committee.

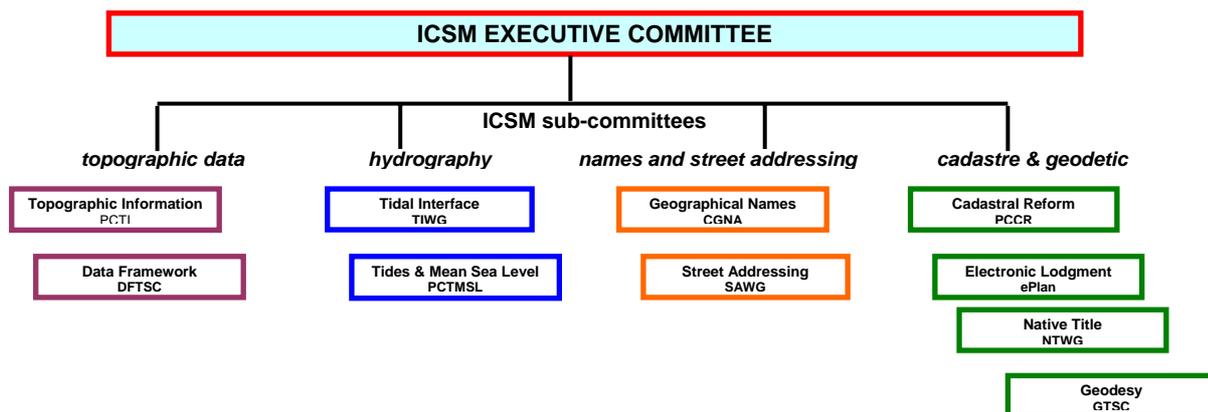
Two new sub-committees (Topographic Information and Electronic Lodgement and Transfer of Survey Information) were created to address issues not covered by existing sub-committees.

There were several new faces on the ICSM Executive committee – but its size remained static at 15 members. Similarly, the various sub-committees also saw a number of new faces, and, significantly, this had grown to a membership of over 100 people.

The Executive Committee appointed a new Chairman – Mr Ian O'Donnell, Manager Mapping & Maritime Boundaries, Geoscience Australia. The Committee thanked the outgoing chairman – Mr Paul Harcombe, Chief Surveyor of NSW, Land & Property Information – for his hard work over the previous 2 years. The biennial report for the outgoing chairman is nearing completion, and has an expected publication date of January 2005.

The ACT Commissioner of Surveys – Mr Dave Dobson – retired after 40 years service to the Australia spatial industry. His replacement on the ICSM Executive Committee has not yet been announced.

In December 2004 ICSM had the following make-up:



Topographic Information

A new sub-Committee has been created to provide leadership in topographic information (PCTI). This follows the disbandment of a Special Interest Group which had focused its attention on developing a topographic data models for the storage of spatial data in databases. This can be viewed at: http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/harmonised_data_manual/standardised_national_feature_codes.pdf

PCTI has been created to develop a co-ordinated approach to topographic data collection, management and access through the participation of government agencies and industry stakeholder groups. It clearly recognised that each jurisdiction has different, but complementary, roles and responsibilities. However, it aims to ensure that wherever possible interoperability issues are identified early on.

Already, the Committee has developed a draft National Topographic Information Agreement (NTIA) which is being circulated amongst government mapping agencies for comment.

ePlan

ICSM has recently established a new sub-committee to review the electronic lodgement and transfer of cadastral record – with the aim to establish a nationally consistent approach to removing the need for paper copies of survey records.

The work of this sub-Committee has considerable support within the surveying industry, where the need to build a nationally consistent approach to the electronic handling of cadastral information has long been recognised.

A national data model has been established, and is being tested using Queensland data. This model makes it possible for all transactions to be done via the WEB.

One City One Site

Over recent years ICSM has taken a lead role in negotiations to protect community names from exploitation in the eCommerce world – ie ensuring that community names with an extension of .com and .net remain available for the use by local communities and not copyrighted by commercial interests.

To this end ICSM has been actively involved in negotiations with auDA (.au Domain Administration Limited) regarding the reservation of Australian place names for use by community groups. This support has evolved into the One City One Site project – a pilot project which is developing a web gateway structure for use by all communities.

For more information can be found here:
http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/cgna/one_city_letter.doc

ICSM Successful Hosts a United Nations Toponymy Workshop The first in the Pacific

Toponymy is branch of the science of lexicology that studies the place names of a region or a language – it is much more than simply collecting and recording place names. As part of this ICSM's Committee on Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA) is responsible for providing a co-ordinating role for the management of place names – for example, developing policy on the joint use of indigenous and non-indigenous names.

For two weeks in October, students from seven different countries congregated in Bathurst NSW to study the art of place names – pity the poor students from Indonesia when they saw their first frost.

Helen Kerfoot, Emeritus Scientist from Natural Resources Canada, was the UN representative at the course. She spoke in glowing terms about the high level of professionalism displayed by the Australian presenters and the enthusiasm of the students.

The task now for the participants, is to apply the lessons in their own countries to ensure that their whole toponymy system works smoothly and efficiently.

Harmonised Data Framework

The HDF was developed by ICSM in the late 1990s and it is designed as the key to enabling free flowing data exchange and use – nationally!

The HDF is being used by all ICSM sub-committees to ensure that a nationally consistent approach is being taken to data collection, storage and dissemination. Most notably the Native Title sub-committee is developing a model for the recording of the cadastral component of native title claims.

In October ICSM hosted a workshop to review the way forward for the HDF, especially to identify means by which the HDF would be promoted more widely within the spatial industry – not just within government.

Cadastral Reform

The complex interrelationships between rights, restrictions and responsibilities (the 3Rs) associated with land ownership and management are growing at a staggering rate.

In May ICSM, in conjunction with ANZLIC, sponsored a very successful workshop, where representatives from all levels of government and the spatial industry 'brainstormed' the future vision for a revitalised cadastral system. This is synthesised as:

- recording all rights, restrictions and responsibilities in virtual registries
- providing guarantees for land, air, water, vegetation and development
- supporting property markets and complex commodities
- being accessible and useable by all through a single portal
- being user driven and appear seamless
- enabling visualisation of legal and administrative boundaries and layering of rights restrictions and responsibilities
- merging built and natural data with information about rights
- accepting fully spatially defined new developments
- including interests of all tiers of government
- integrating state cadastres to national level
- integrating cadastres with other spatial layers

Following on from this, ANZLIC's Standing Committee on Land Administration (SCoLA) held a national Summit in November to consider possible ways to improve the administration of land and property rights; and restrictions in Australia. Refer to SCoLA's home page at: http://www.anzlic.org.au/committees_scola.html

Tidal Interface Compendium of Terms

ICSM's Tidal Interface Working Group (TWIG) published a compendium of related terms.

In compiling the Compendium, TWIG members identified terms used in a legal context within separate agencies. While the Compendium is far from definitive, it does highlight that there are numerous terms used to describe the tidal interface; and that these terms frequently have varying definitions or are not defined at all. It should also be noted that the complexity and significance of this issue varies between jurisdictions, depending on the nature of the coastal area and tidal variations experienced and its impact on activity in the tidal interface area.

The full Compendium can be viewed at:
http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/publications/tidal_interface/compendium_full_may03.pdf;

and an abridged version can be viewed at:
http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/publications/tidal_interface/compendium_summary_ma03.pdf

Next ICSM Meeting

ICSM's next meeting is scheduled for May 2005 in Perth, Western Australia